

**ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is a method for restricting overflowing due to address registration of an unstable asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) terminal through an interim local management interface (ILMI) protocol in an asynchronous transfer mode switch. The asynchronous transfer mode switch registers an address of an asynchronous transfer mode terminal using an interim local management interface protocol and then determines whether the asynchronous transfer mode terminal is stable or is not stable. When the asynchronous transfer mode terminal is not stable, the asynchronous transfer mode switch defers application of the private network-to-network interface (PNNI) until the asynchronous transfer mode terminal becomes stable.